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facts about the

Agricultural Conservation Program

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Conservation Program Service

Washington, D. C.

PA-272

Agricultural **C**onservation **P**rogram

WHAT IT IS

ACP is one of the conservation services of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Through ACP, the public shares with farmers the cost of doing certain needed soil and water conservation measures.

Funds for ACP are appropriated by the Congress each year and distributed among States and agricultural counties to help farmers carry out their conservation program.

WHAT IT DOES

ACP pays about half the cost of conservation practices approved for cost-sharing and helps make related technical assistance available through cooperative arrangements with other agencies. It may furnish essential materials and services instead of cash payments.

ACP makes available cost-sharing for conservation measures that establish or improve a protective cover of grasses, legumes, or trees, conserve or dispose of water, and other measures that protect, improve, and make better use of farm and range land.

HOW IT WORKS

An Agricultural Conservation Program is developed annually in each county by local agricultural workers. It is handled through elected committees of local farmers known as the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committees. These committees are assisted in technical matters by the Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service technicians. The ASC county committees decide how much cost-sharing to approve for practices requested by farmers.

WHAT FARMERS DO

After deciding what conservation measures they need, farmers request cost-sharing on those practices in ACP for which they need assistance. This request for cost-sharing must be made before starting the practice. Farmers pay the balance of the cost and usually do the work. They must complete the work to meet certain standards.

WHO MAY RECEIVE COST-SHARING

Any farm or ranch operator, owner, tenant or sharecropper may request ACP cost-sharing.

Two or more farmers may pool their ACP cost-sharing to help solve community conservation problems affecting their farms.

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

Full information about ACP cost-sharing is available at the ASC county offices, usually located in the county seat in each agricultural county in the United States. ASC offices are also in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

General information may be obtained from ASC Community Committeemen, County Extension Agents, Forest Service, and Soil Conservation Service technicians, Farmers Home Administration workers, and others.

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